

»OBCHOD NA KORZE«
(»THE SHOP ON THE MAIN STREET«),
CSSR 1965, DIRECTED BY JAN KÁDÁR
AND ELMAR KLOS,
IN SLOVAK WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES,
121 MINUTES

followed by a discussion in German between Miloslav Szabó (Vienna)
and Jana Starek (VWI)

VWI VISUALS

January 29, 2015
Admiralkino
1070 Wien, Burggasse 119
6.30 p.m.

WIENER WIESENTHAL INSTITUT
FÜR HOLOCAUST-STUDIEN (VWI)



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During the clerical-fascist Slovak State, "Tóno" Brtko, a docile and poor carpenter, is offered the possibility to 'aryanise' the small Main Street sewing accessories shop of Rozália Lautmannová. Torn between his good-natured principles and his greedy wife Evelyn, he finally agrees to take over the shop by making the deaf and senile lady believe he is her nephew arriving to help her out. Yet he then discovers that the business is bankrupt, and Ms. Lautmannová is only relying on donations from the Jewish community. While letting his wife believe he is making money from the shop, he gradually becomes a supporter of the old lady. More and more, a cordial relationship between the two evolves.

When the Slovak authorities finally decide to deport the Jewish population of the small town, Tóno, in a deep conflict with himself and his values, finally opts for hiding Ms. Lautmannová – a decision which turns into tragedy.

Obchod na korze won the 'Oscar' for Best Foreign Language Film in 1966.

MILOSLAV SZABÓ, PhD, dissertation on Alfred Rosenberg, since 2007 study of Slovak antisemitism at the Technische Universität Berlin, then at the Jewish Museum in Prague, 2013/2014 Research Fellow at the VWI.

JANA STAREK, Dr., historian, 1991–2004 Director of the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Brno, University Lecturer in Vienna and Brno, author of anthologies on the history of Austro-Czech relation, since 2010 at the VWI.

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